

COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

20th Annual Columbia Values Diversity Celebration welcomes Martin Luther King III

By [Becky Neems](#)

November 12, 2012 | 1:37 p.m. CST

COLUMBIA — Martin Luther King III will revisit his father's dream of equality during an event in January.

The city will honor people and organizations that exemplify Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream at the 20th annual Columbia Values Diversity Celebration, which will be held from 7 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. on Jan. 17 at the Holiday Inn Expo Center, 2200 I-70 Drive Southwest. Tickets are only available in advance. The deadline to [register for the event](#) is 5 p.m. on Jan. 11. Tickets are \$14.

If you go

The 20th annual Columbia Values Diversity Celebration, featuring keynote speaker Martin Luther King III, will be held from 7 to 8:45 a.m. on Jan. 17 at the Holiday Inn Expo Center, 2200 I-70 Drive S.W. The registration deadline is 5 p.m. Jan. 11. Tickets are \$14 and are not available at the door.

The theme for the event is "The Dream Revisited," Cari Utterback, social service specialist for the city of Columbia, said. It will include breakfast and live music, followed by a program honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the presentation of the Columbia Values Diversity Awards.

Applications for the 2013 Diversity Awards are due Nov. 30. The Columbia Public Health and Human Services allots two awards each year. The city gives one award to an individual or family and another to a group or organization.

The city is looking for nominees who in the past year pushed for more diversity in the community, Utterback said.

Ten years ago, Bernice King, Dr. Martin Luther King's daughter, spoke at the event.

There will also be an artistic presentation by Clyde Ruffin, professor of acting, vocal performance and African-American Theatre at MU.

[Students can submit poems and essays](#) for inclusion in a booklet, which will be distributed at the event.

The city is asking for sponsors of the event to pay for Martin Luther King III's visit. The 19th event raised \$20,000.

Registration is available by mail, email, fax, phone, online or in person at the Public Health and Human Services Department, 1005 W. Worley St.